

TRIBUTE TO RONALD DONNELL WALKER

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, my first opportunity to speak from this well, on a solemn note, to memorialize and make part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the life of the late Ronald Donnell Walker, the husband of my sister, Barbara Walker, and my brother-in-law.

Ronald Walker, who we affectionately call Uncle Ron, was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on October 20, 1947. He attended Chattanooga public schools, graduating from Howard High School in 1965.

He attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia where he majored in history and excelled at football. Upon graduation, he was drafted by the Detroit Lions football organization. However, his football career was cut short by a football injury.

In 1970, Ron married his college sweetheart, my sister, Barbara Tubbs. From this union, one son, Khari Walker, was born.

Ron was a certified property manager, and his professional career took his family to many cities. In each of these cities, he became actively involved with the church.

Ronald and Barbara were a team. When you asked for one, you always got two. So it was, from the beginning of their marriage right up to the end.

My sister Barbara was my campaign manager in my successful bid for Congress. It is as a result of their hard work that I stand before my colleagues today.

Most recently, Ron organized a bus trip to Washington for the 106th Congress swearing in. My last opportunity to see him. Thank God it was a joyous occasion, and all of my family was here to witness it.

God blessed me and the 11th Congressional District with this wonderful couple. I know that his work on earth will bring heavenly rewards.

Mr. Speaker, I include Ron's obituary for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The document is as follows:

THE OBITUARY OF RONALD DONNELL WALKER

Ronald Donnell Walker, son of Lenora Walker and the late John H. Walker, was born October 20, 1947, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Ron attended Chattanooga public schools, graduating from Howard High School in 1965. He attended college at Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he majored in History and excelled at football. Ron was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and was nicknamed Ron "Freeway" Walker. He graduated in 1969 and was drafted by the Detroit Lions football organization. His football career was cut short by a football injury. He then began to pursue a career in property management.

In 1970 Ron married his college sweetheart, Barbara Tubbs. To this union, one son, Khari Walker, was born. The Walkers lived in many cities beginning in Cleveland, later moving to Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Hartford, back to Cleveland, Dayton, Pittsburgh and most recently, to Cleveland again. Ron

was very active in the campaign to elect Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH-11) and had recently returned from the official congressional swearing-in in Washington, D.C.

Ron professed his faith at an early age. In each city, in which the family lived, he found a church home and became very active. At First Baptist Church in Hartford, he was an ordained deacon and member of its housing corporation. In Dayton, Ron joined Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, in Pittsburgh, Mount Arat Baptist Church. Each time they returned to Cleveland, Ron and Barbara reunited with Bethany Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and she served as a missionary. They both worked with the pastor's aid and with the young people of Bethany.

Ron was devoted to his family and he left a host of family and friends to celebrate his life. Among them are his wife of twenty eight (28) years, Barbara Walker, sons, Khari Walker (Atlanta, GA.) and Kevin Erskine (Deborah, Murfreesboro, Tenn.) and three granddaughters, Jalysa, Jenne and Jenysa. He is also survived by his mother, Lenora Walker (Chattanooga, Tenn.), two sisters Julia Tousaint (New York, N.Y.) and Althea Jackson (Chattanooga, Tenn.), one brother, Rev. Anthony Walker (Lagail, Atlanta, GA.), one aunt, Dorothy Gilliam (Queens, N.Y.) his in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tubbs (Mary) sisters-in-law, Stephanie Tubbs Jones (Mervyn and Mervyn II) and Mattie Still (Robert, San Francisco, CA.). His brother, John H. Walker Jr. predeceased him.

Ron loved the Lord and he let his work speak for him. His generous size camouflaged his gentle nature. His captivating smile and infectious personality will be missed by all.

BRONCOS SUPER BOWL VICTORY

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, although the rules of the House prevent me from donning this beautiful capeau, I will hold it here nonetheless for the world to see.

Mr. Speaker, last Sunday in front of 75,000 fans in Miami and before around 800 million or so around the globe, a group of men from Colorado gave a clinic in the art of football. Of course I am speaking of the world champion Denver Broncos who convincingly passed, ran, and kicked for a 34 to 19 Super Bowl victory.

In a football season where many were calling on the NFL to bring back the instant replay, the Broncos did, and they have matching trophies to prove it.

This does not surprise anyone from my home State, but others had to learn the hard way that you cannot beat a balanced attack or a defense that only allows 25 points during the entire post season.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to my colleagues that no NFL team has ever won three Super Bowls in a row. Next year, however, this standard of dominance could finally fall, but only to one team, the Denver Broncos. Speaking as a Coloradoan, this is how it should be. I look forward to coming back to the floor one year from today and honoring the Broncos again.

GUADALUPE-HIDALGO TREATY LAND CLAIMS ACT OF 1999

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to right long-standing injustices. One hundred fifty-one years ago the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo was signed by the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico. In that the government, our government, promised to respect and protect the culture, property rights and language of the residents who would later become United States citizens.

These promises by our government were broken. Many land grant communities no longer exist. Many individuals have lost their land. This bill starts the long process to resolve these disputes and to bring our government in line with its treaty obligations.

Exactly 151 years ago today, the United States and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, officially ending the Mexican-American war.

Under the treaty, signed February 2, 1848, Mexico ceded to the United States more than 525,000 square miles of land, including all of what is now California, Nevada and Utah, as well as parts of four other states including my state of New Mexico.

As part of the treaty, the United States also agreed to honor the land holdings of the existing residents of its vast new territory. In many cases, however, the government ignored that pledge and the protections provided by the Constitution as more and more new settlers moved into this land covered by numerous Mexican and Spanish land grants.

Mr. Speaker, for 151 years, the United States government has turned its back on this issue. For 151 years, land grant heirs of New Mexico have cried out for justice.

Robert Kennedy once said that "Justice delayed is democracy denied."

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop denying the full blessings of democracy to the land grant heirs. It's time to start hearing their cries.

In 1997, then-Representative Bill Richardson of New Mexico introduced legislation that would create a Presidential Commission to study the claims of the land grant heirs.

Last year, my predecessor, Mr. Redmond, introduced similar legislation in this body. With tremendous bipartisan support, the Guadalupe-Hidalgo Treaty Land Claims Act of 1998 passed overwhelmingly. Its supporters and cosponsors included not only the current Speaker of the House, but former Speaker Gingrich and members of the leadership of both parties.

With the passage of this bill, the House of Representatives sent a clear message that it was time to undo 151 years of injustice.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the legislation never made it through the Senate. And so I stand here today urging my colleagues to once again take a stand for justice.

The bill I introduce today is substantively the one passed by this body last year. The bill will:

(1) Create a five person Presidential Commission, called the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Land Claims Commission, to review the claims of the land grant heirs.